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## DHEC to Offer 100 Percent of WIC Nutritional Services Over-the-Phone Ensures Access to Healthy Foods for Families During COVID-19

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** — During this challenging time, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced today that all Women Infant and Children (WIC) nutrition services will be issued remotely.

Starting Monday, April 13, South Carolina WIC participants will no longer be required to visit WIC clinics. Appointments and the issuance of nutritional services will instead be made over-the-phone.

"We recognize that many South Carolinian families are facing hardships during this time," said South Carolina State WIC Director Berry Kelly. "TEAM WIC has done an amazing job making WIC services available by phone. Thanks to their commitment and dedication, we are able to ensure that our WIC moms and babies continue to have access to nutritional foods and health services."

To help address WIC product shortages that have occurred due to COVID-19, WIC participants may now also choose from expanded options in a variety of food categories. Participants can see what is currently available at <a href="https://www.scdhec.gov/WIC">www.scdhec.gov/WIC</a>.

"We encourage South Carolina families who are experiencing loss of income related to COVID-19 to apply to our WIC program," Berry said.

As of March 2020, WIC is providing services to 76,803 participants across the state. That is an increase of 2,103 participants from the previous month.

To apply for WIC, call <u>1-855-472-3432</u> to make an appointment. If you are a WIC participant and have any questions or concerns, please contact your <u>local WIC office</u>.